

TO : THE EDITOR

FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE : 02 AUGUST 2011

SUBJECT : THE NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 01 – 06 AUGUST 2011

On 01 August 2011, the Mpumalanga Department of Education launched the National Science Week in Lydenburg High School, two days after it was launched nationally at the University of Kwazulu Natal in Durban on 30 July 2011.

This initiative has been celebrated annually for the past 11 years. This year, the National Science Week (NSW) coincides with National Mathematics Week (NMW) hence in Mpumalanga it was decided to celebrate both simultaneously.

These are countrywide celebrations of science and mathematics involving various stakeholders and role players conducting science and mathematics-based activities during the week.

National Science Week was initiated to achieve the following;

- Creating awareness to all citizens about the importance of Maths, Sciences and Technology in South Africa.
- Demonstrating that science can be fun by demonstrating 'Fun experiments'
- Emphasise that science is not a complicated event as it is carried out on a daily basis.
- Show that solving Maths problems can be fun.
- Discussing technological advancements and innovations.
- Creating an atmosphere where parents and other stakeholders take pride in the education of their children.

The NSW has since its launch in 2000 adopted themes that emphasized Taking Science to the people, to put more emphasis on human resource development, focusing in the need to drastically increase the number of women and people from previously disadvantaged communities entering the sciences and remaining in the system.

The Department will embark on the following educational activities during the week;

- Industrial Visits

- Fun Experiments
- Maths Games (Umrabaraba, others)
- Mathematics and Science quizzes
- Career-pathing exhibitions
- IKS activities (Painting, others)
- Seminars for Educators
- Fun Run
- Interdepartmental sessions
- Computer made easy / touch lessons
- Provincial Launch

This year's celebration will take place under the theme "**The Role of Science in Economic Development**".

Issued by the Communication Directorate.

For more information contact Mr JI Zwane @ 083 743 1804.